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Gp 1743 F.D.S.
T.B.

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 5552.1443-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Paul MELLER

Application No.: 09/680,436

Filed: October 6, 2000

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) Group Art Unit: 1743
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) Examiner: Not Assigned
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)

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Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form. English language Derwent abstracts of the non-English language documents (EP 997726 and FR 2792725) are enclosed. The search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000

documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 26, 2001

By: 

Sean A. Passino
Reg. No. 45,943

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